

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00
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R 241537Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 946
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDSA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJ: SADAT DIRECTIVES ON INTERNAL SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING HIGHLY PUBLICIZED JANUARY 22-23 MEETINGS OF
SADAT WITH HIS TOP POLITICAL AND SECURITY ADVISORS, PRESIDENCY
ISSUED STATEMENT SUMMARIZING DECISIONS TAKEN. BRIEFLY, UNSPECIFIED
SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS BLAMED FOR EXPLOITING WHAT HAD BEEN PEACEFUL
POPULAR PROTEST. PRESIDENT WILL NOT RETRACT DEMOCRATIC GAINS
ACHIEVED, BUT RULE OF LAW MUST BE RESPECTED. PRESIDENT "AGREED
TO SUSPEND" PRICE INCREASES TO "CHECK DISSENSATION, ENSURE
PEOPLE'S SAFETY...AND FOIL SABOTEURS' DESIGNS." PRESIDENT
ASKED GOE SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT AVOID ANY MEASURES AFFECTING
PRICE OF FOOD AND CLOTHING. SABOTEURS ENDANGERED NOT ONLY
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EGYPTIAN SECURITY BUT ALSO ARAB PEACE EFFORTS. GOE IS
ORDERED PAY COMPENSATION TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED SABOTAGE.

2. WHILE MORNING PAPERS JANUARY 24 FEATURED HIS DIRECTIVE
FREESING FOOD AND CLOTHING PRICES, IT STILL UNCLEAR HOW GOE
INTENDS APPROACH AMENDMENT OF BUDGET. SUBSIDY PROBLEM MUST
BE DEALT WITH IN BUDGET CONTEXT AND PA CANNOT CONSTITUTIONALLY

AMEND GOE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL, BUT ONLY ACCEPT OR REJECT IT IN TOTO (SEPTTEL).

3. GUMHURIYYA HEADLINES SADAT INTENTION SPEAK TO NATION ON LIVE TV JANUARY 27, BUT AKHBAR PUBLISHER THINKS PRESIDENT WILL NOT MAKE SPEECH UNTIL HE HAS SOME EMERGENCY ARAB FINANCIAL AID TO ANNOUNCE. SAUDI EMBASSY TELLS US NO PLANS YET FOR KAISOUNI TO GO TO RIYADH OR FOR EMERGENCY GODE MEETING IN CAIRO. BOTH SAUDIS AND AKHBAR PUBLISHER, HOWEVER, THOUGHT THAT AS SOON AS GISCARD DEPARTS, ABA AL-KHAYL MIGHT COME TO CAIRO.

4. MININFO PERSONALLY DIRECTING GOE'S PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS, BUT PLETHORA OF COMMENTARIES ON MORAL DUTY OF WEALTHY ARABS TO BAIL EGYPT OUT REQUIRES NO PRODDING FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES. IN KEEPING WITH OPEN NEWS COVERAGE, EGYPTIAN TV JANUARY 23 INTERVIEWED CITIZENS ON CAIRO STREET CORNER, MOST OF WHOM CONTENTED MOB DESTRUCTION ONLY HURT THE PEOPLE. OTHERS CRITICIZED PRICE INCREASES.

5 "COMMUNISTS" HAVE DEFINITELY EMERGED AS VILLIANS. THERE IS GENERAL BELIEF THAT BOTH NASSERIST AND MARXIST ELEMENTS EXPLOITED SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST FOOD PRICE INCREASES BY INCITING VIOLENCE. ORGANIZED COMMUNIST LEFT IS RESPONDING WITH ARGUMENT THAT SINCE PREMISES OF ROSE AL-YUSIF WERE ATTACKED BY MOBS, IT CLEAR THAT MARXISTS INVOLVE IN LEGAL LEFT PARTY SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED. OF THOSE ARRESTED, WE RECOGNIZED ONLY ONE IMPORTANT COMMUNISTS, PHILIPPE GHALLAB. OTHER NAMES ARE EITHER UNKNOWN OR ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNISTS AND/OR NASSERISTS IN MINOR CAPACITY. MUHAMMAD SALMAWI OF AHRAM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR EXAMPLE, IS SMALL COG IN NASSERIST KAMAL AHMED'S ORGANIZATION. TACTIC, PRESUMABLY, IS TO FRIGHTEN LEFTISTS INTO QUIESCENCE.

6. ALL OUR INTERLOCUTORS BELIEVE CAIRO WILL REMAIN QUIET. RUMORS OF NEW CABINET PERSIST (ASU FIRST SECRETARY MUSTAFA KHALIL MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE PRIMIN), BUT CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT ANY SUCH MOVE NOW WOULD APPEAR SURRENDER TO MOB RULE.
EILTS

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